

ment to the memory of the late Captain Maury, United States Navy—who was the father of deep-sea exploration, and who has rendered such important aid to navigation. However, from our observations, the decision was altogether unfavourable.

On the morning of 29th August hawsers were cast off, and we steamed round the rocks, taking soundings and current observations; and on the next day crossed the Equator in longitude $30^{\circ} 18'$ west. The disagreeable practice of shaving, &c., those who for the first time “cross the Line” was not permitted, although there were many who were anxious to join in the usual sport. This old-fashioned custom, which the present age seems inclined to get rid of, is gradually falling into disuse, and but few ships' companies now pay that homage on entering Neptune's dominions as they were wont to. So the invisible belt was crossed; and as the night advanced the more striking became the aspect of the Southern Constellations. The sparkling light of the North Star had for some time past been growing fainter, and at length disappeared altogether. On the other hand, the Southern Cross, and other stars with which we were not so familiar, had taken their places; and each night, as we moved farther south, for a time we felt a difficulty in recognising our new acquaintances.

Though the Line had been crossed at a more westerly point than usual, on the 1st September we